As per the provision in Section 98, notwithstanding the repeal of the enactment and Orders specified in the Second Schedule, the standards, safety requirements and other provisions of the Act and the rules and regulations made thereunder and Orders listed in that Scheduled shall continue to be in force and operate till new standards are specified under this Act or rules and regulations made thereunder.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been entrusted with the implementation of the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006.

Multi-speciality Veterinary Centre and Research Institute in Kerala

*270. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Animal Husbandry in Kerala has forwarded a proposal for setting up of a Multi-speciality Veterinary Centre and Research Institute in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision of the Central Government on this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government has received a proposal from the Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Animal Husbandry, Kerala for setting up of a Multi-speciality Veterinary Centre and Research Institute in Kerala. As there is no provision for granting Central assistance to fund such Projects under any of the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, the proposal was not considered.

Increasing MSP of wheat and bonus thereon

†*271. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the Minimum Support Price of wheat in the last year and amount of bonus given to the farmers per quintal;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the rate at which private companies purchased wheat from the farmers and the shortage in procurement of wheat by Government as compared to the target;

(c) whether Government would increase the Minimum Support Price of wheat and increase the bonus, keeping in view the pathetic condition of farmers, continuous increase in production cost and the incidents of suicides being committed by farmers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Wheat fixed by the Government of India for the wheat crop of 2005-06 and marketed in 2006-07 in Rs. 650 per quintal. A bonus of Rs. 50 per quintal over and above the MSP was given to the farmers. The farmers are free to sell their produce in the open market, including private companies, if a higher price is offered to them. The market prices of wheat in the major wheat growing States between April to June, 2006 (peak marketing season) were in the range of Rs. 650 per quintal to Rs. 1200 per quintal. A quantity of 92.26 lakh tonnes of wheat was procured by Food Corporation of India and State agencies during the marketing year 2006-07 as against the target of 162.07 lakh tonnes.

(c) and (d) The Government has already fixed the MSP for wheat at Rs. 750/- per quintal for the crop of 2006-07 to be marketed during 2007-08.

Security of railway passengers

*272. DR. P.C. ALEXANDER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the respective responsibilities of the State Police and the Railway Police for the security of the persons and properties of railway passengers;

(b) further measures which Government propose to take to ensure more effective security for railway passengers; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to ensure proper co-ordination between the police departments of the Railways and the State Governments and to enforce accountability of those responsible for the security of the railway passengers?